

Brookville Multifaith Campus



*One house, many faiths, endless
opportunities for growth!*

NEWS

October
2022

2 Brookville Road, Glen Head, NY 11545
www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org

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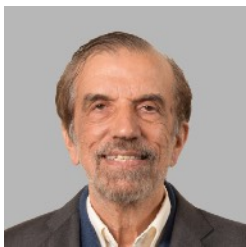
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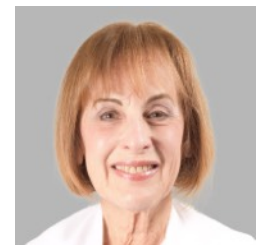
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The Interfaith Community of Long Island

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Rev. William McBride &
Cantor Irene Failenbogen
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Rev. Enid Kessler
Spiritual Advisor
interfaith4you@gmail.com

Vision Statement

Through learning opportunities, essential partnerships, and occasional shared worship, our campus welcomes all who want to learn, question and grow, while making a positive and lasting impact in the community and world.

Mission

To build a multifaith community of people from different faiths who connect to one another by embracing similarities while celebrating differences.

Find a Place to Belong

We invite you to discover a spiritual community made up of different religious groups. Each group maintains its own religious identity but fosters an open environment for learning, celebrating and honoring each distinct religion.

Thoughts from campus leaders

That's a Wrap!

Rev. Vicky L. Eastland

Labor Day weekend was such a joy. On September first Pierre Pirard arrived at JFK from Brussels to attend an awards ceremony in his honor. It was the first time he had returned since filming our multifaith campus in September of 2019 and it was a wonderful reunion.

Once Pierre was settled in, we discussed what these last few years have been like for him - traveling, filming, meeting people all over the world who are making strides to build bridges of peace and then the release of his documentary and traveling to live film premieres in various countries. Pierre shared that much of his life for the last five years has been consumed by his film project and getting it out for the world to see.

Throughout his entire journey with his documentary, it has never been about fame or fortune or even recognition. His sole agenda was to make a film that would propel society into an increasing awareness that getting to know "the other" is not something to be feared, but rather what will make the world a better place.

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Sukkot – An Important Message for Our Time

Rabbi Stuart Paris, HaKohen

Sukkot, a Hebrew word meaning "booths" or "huts," refers to the Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest. It also commemorates the 40 years of Jewish wandering in the desert after the giving of the Torah atop Mt. Sinai. *Sukkot* is celebrated five days after *Yom Kippur* on the 15th day of the month of *Tishrei* (this year corresponding to October 9th). Of all the holidays on the Jewish calendar, the one the Torah singled out most strongly for worldwide significance is *Sukkot*.

Sukkot is marked by several distinct traditions. One tradition, which takes the commandment to dwell in booths

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WELCOME BACK!



Christine Mankes

Sunday, September 18th was a day filled with excitement, tolerance and acceptance. We are very eager to begin our 17th year of programming at the Interfaith Community of Long Island (IFCLI).

Your leadership committee has been working all summer preparing for our best year ever! We have planned our class schedules, service projects, gathering events and holiday celebrations.

We were not only able to reconnect with old friends, but also had the opportunity to meet new families! Assembling on a picture-perfect Sunday morning, we gathered on the beautiful lawn of our Brookville Multifaith Campus and enjoyed coffee and conversation.

Continued on page 7

What is Sharia?

Dr. Syed Asad and Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed

In the 1950s and 1960s Iran was a rapidly modernizing state. Faith was a private matter, hijab was optional, and women and men could attend college or travel together. With its income from oil, Iran was making rapid economic progress and projected to develop into an economy comparable to that of France by the year 2000. Its neighbor Afghanistan was also modernizing under a secular monarchy. Women could dress as they liked, attend school, own a business and travel freely. But Iran and Afghanistan are very different today. The hijab is mandatory, clerics dictate societal norms, 'morality' police patrol the streets, and civil rights are nonexistent.

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That's a Wrap! ...continued from page 2

Five years is a long time to work on one single project and Pierre was clear that this chapter of his life was closing. Receiving an award for his effort in telling the stories of those who are developing interfaith initiatives was for him a perfect way to close this chapter.

The Interfaith Institute of Long Island, a sister organization to our multifaith campus, who strives to develop and sustain a progressive, vibrant interfaith community and a nurturing environment for the society at large, chooses someone annually to recognize for their stellar achievements in furthering the work of interfaith relations. They chose Pierre as this year's awardee.



Pierre received the award at a ceremony held on our campus on September 3rd. Close to 100 people from various faith backgrounds were in attendance. For some, it was the first time they had visited our multifaith

campus. Many expressed their gratitude for our gracious hospitality and how deeply they felt the peaceful environment we have created on our campus.

Pierre not only received recognition from the Interfaith Institute, but also from State Senator, Anna Kalpan, Congressman, Tom Suozzi and even from New York Sate Governor, Kathy Hochul!

During the awards ceremony, Pierre shared stories of his experiences while premiering his documentary in countries around the world. One story in particular was the most impactful for me. I'd like to share it with you.



Dr. Unni Moopan, President of Interfaith Institute L.I. (IFILI), Pierre Pirard and Dr. Farouque Khan, Chairman of IFILI

After showing the film at a school in Paris, France, a teenage Muslim boy approached Pierre and said he did not believe that the story from Brookville was true. He was convinced that it had been staged and was not real. The boy said a Christian church would never allow the Muslim call to prayer to be done in their church as was depicted in the film. Pierre proceeded to tell this young man that he witnessed it first hand. The boys eyes widened as he realized that what he thought was fake, had truly happened. He said that his father would never believe it.

As I drove Pierre to the train station on Labor Day, he shared once again that receiving this award was the perfect way for him to close this chapter. As they say in the film industry, "That's a wrap." The chapter may be closed for Pierre, his work completed, but the life of the film has not come to an end. It is still available for viewing on [YouTube](#) and will continue to spread the message of hope that when people reach across barriers to embrace "the other" bridges of peace and unity can be built.

Working for peace everyday,

~ Rev. Vicky



Pierre Pirard with the IFILI Board

Sukkot – An Important Message for Our Time.

...continued from page 2

literally, is to erect a *sukkah*, a small, temporary booth or hut. While all Jewish holidays serve as great opportunities to practice hospitality, *Sukkot* seems to be the most hospitable of Jewish holidays. What other time of year do we build a temporary makeshift house with the goal of inviting others into it and dwelling together as a community?

Another *Sukkot* observance is the taking of the Four Kinds (Species): an *etrog* (citron), a *lulav* (palm frond), three *hadassim* (myrtle twigs) and two *aravot* (willow twigs). On each day of the festival (except Shabbat), we take the Four Kinds, recite a blessing over them, bring them together and wave them in all six directions: right, left, forward, up, down, and backward.

The functions of the four species are defined by both their smell and taste, or lack thereof. The *etrog* has both taste and smell, representing people who both perform good deeds and have knowledge. The *lulav* has taste but no smell, representing those who do not use their knowledge to perform good deeds. The *hadass* (myrtle) has smell but no taste, representing those who perform good deeds but lack the knowledge to excel at them. The *aravah* (willow) has no taste and no smell, representing those who lack both.

Instead of shaming the other three species for not being as righteous or wise as the *etrog*, G-d instead commands us to “bind them all together into one grouping” so they may atone for one another. In other words, no matter how many good deeds a person performs, no matter how wise they are or where they are in their learning and growth, everybody has something to offer –

and everyone is welcomed, equally and together, into the whole of the community.

The *lulavim* among us can learn how to put their knowledge into action; how to use their wisdom to think outside the box to make their communities more welcoming. The *hadassim* can learn how to make their impact match their intent by learning, reflecting, and growing. The *etrogim*, with their knowledge and good deeds can teach and help others. And the *aravot* among us – those who are just beginning their journey – can both learn from everyone else and remind them that we all had to start somewhere. Humankind does not progress by shaming one another but by lifting one another up.



Each of us – no matter which of the four species we most closely identify with – has something to learn and to offer. When we come together, when we take each of our skillsets, each of our stories and experiences, each of our gifts and flaws and combine into one unified force dedicated to *tikkun olam* (repair of the world), we become something bigger than we could have ever anticipated.

May the words recited at the end of reading each book of the Torah inspire you: *Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazeik*. “Be strong, be strong, and we will strengthen each other.”

~ Rabbi Stuart A. Pariz, HaKohen

Please join us for virtual Shabbat services
For information, email
newsynagogue.li@gmail.com



High Holidays

Yom Kippur Eve - Kol Nidre

Tuesday, October 4th at 7:00pm, **Virtual only:** use this [virtual link](#)
Print your own Yom Kippur - [Kol Nidre Booklet](#)

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### **Yom Kippur Day**

Wednesday, October 5th: 10:00am to 1:00pm

Yizkor Service: 12:00pm

**Hybrid:** use this [virtual link](#)

or join us in person

at the Brookville Multifaith Campus  
2 Brookville Road, Glen Head, NY 11545

**Masks ARE required.**

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Concluding Service: 5:00pm

Virtual only: use this [virtual link](#)

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Print your own Yom Kippur - [Day Booklet](#)  
Print your own Yom Kippur - [Yizkor Service](#)

Print your own [High Holiday Reader](#)

We thank you in advance for your [help and generosity](#).

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*L'Shana Tova!*

*Rabbi Paris, HaKohen  
Rabbi Scott Matous  
Cantor Irene Failenbogen.*



## What is Sharia? ...continued from page 2

Even with a huge income from oil, poverty is widespread in Iran. What happened in these countries? They were taken over by fundamentalist regimes who believe it is their duty to enforce their understanding of Sharia law on the population.

The horror of life under such a regime was highlighted recently by the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman in Iran after she was detained by the morality police on September 15 because she was not wearing a scarf.

Three days after her arrest, Iran's security forces issued a statement claiming Ms. Amini had suddenly collapsed from a heart attack at the detention center, while receiving educational training on hijab rules. From this statement we can imagine that 'educational training' by the morality police consists of inflicting brutal violence.

While Sharia is commonly known as 'Muslim Law', it is important to understand how it came about. By the second century after Prophet Muhammad, Islam had spread to large regions of Asia and Africa with people of different ethnic backgrounds who spoke different languages. There was a need for guidance on what Islam teaches and how to live like a Muslim.

Responding to this need several scholars compiled rules for a Muslim life derived from the Quran and the Hadith (sayings of the Prophet). Each scholar included rules according to his judgment and this resulted in the creation of five sects in Islam, each following a different code of Sharia. The scholars who compiled the books of Sharia were products of their time in a peasant society with a tribal structure in which women had no say in how society was organized. There was no system of education.

Sharia rules therefore say what was considered appropriate for that time, that women should be fully covered, cannot travel without a male guardian, and lose custody of children in case of divorce. Sharia says

that homosexual men should be executed, a person who committed adultery should be beaten and the hand of a person who steals a dollar worth of goods should be cut-off.

The scholars did not include the many liberating teachings in the Quran and Hadith. For, example the Quranic injunction that 'There shall be no compulsion in matters of religion' (2:256) is not part of Sharia. The hadith in which the Prophet Muhammad said that 'Search for knowledge is mandatory for Muslim men and women' is not included in Sharia, as well as the hadith in which the Prophet says that 'God does not look at what you are wearing, or how much wealth you have, God looks at what is in your heart'.

Freedom of conscience is mandated by Quran's teaching that 'There shall be no compulsion in matters of religion', but this is ignored by fundamentalist governments. They suppress freedom of speech and use the rules of Sharia to control the population by creating fear of severe punishment for anyone who does not follow their rule.

The rules of hijab have deprived women of opportunity for even religious education throughout Muslim history. This is because according to the rules a woman can attend only those classes taught by a woman scholar. But religious education is offered in madrassas and mosques by male

teachers where women cannot attend. So, with rare exceptions, there have been no female teachers to teach other women. This created a history of continuous disempowerment for Muslim women.

The good news is that harm done by blind enforcement of Sharia rules is recognized in the majority of Muslim countries. Freedom of conscience is honored, more in some places and less in others, and there are opportunities for learning religious as well as secular topics for both men and women. Let us hope that freedom will expand to all parts of the Muslim world so all people can thrive, grow spiritually and be happy.

~Dr. Syed Asad and Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed



Mahsa Amini, the 22 year old woman who was arrested by Iran's 'morality' police on September 15 for not wearing hijab properly. She died three days later in police custody.

## WELCOME BACK! ...continued from page 2

We were introduced to our incredibly supportive faith leaders and past IFCLI directors. Our children attended religious education classes and new families were able to have their children sit in on classes as well. All of our classes are taught by two instructors: one of the Christian faith and one of the Jewish faith. The children meet for one hour in classrooms set up in Fellowship Hall. Classes are available to children in grades pre-k through high school. Please click [HERE](#) for more detailed information about our classes for each grade level.

While the kids are in classes, the adults not only have the opportunity to socialize, but also to address various issues that confront our interfaith families. Each family in our organization contributes to our success. Opportunities to contribute include arranging holiday celebrations, social gatherings for adults, get-togethers for kids and serving on various committees. Not only I am proud to have been a member of the IFCLI for over 12 years, but I am also excited at the prospect of what this new year has in store for all of us!

**Registration for membership and classes is still open. You can register on our website.**

### How can I stay informed?

#### EMAIL

Please check your email for updates. If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please email [allison@interfaithli.org](mailto:allison@interfaithli.org).

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

IFCLI website: <https://www.interfaithli.org/home>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ifcli>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/interfaithcommunityli/>

#### The IFCLI Committee Chairpeople

**Steering Committee Chair**  
*Allison*



**Finance Chair**  
*Jim*



**Education Chair**  
*Nancy*



**Membership Chair**  
*Gayle*



**Co-op Chair**  
*Derek*



**Communication Chair**  
*Christine*



### Mark your calendars!

Our next day of classes is

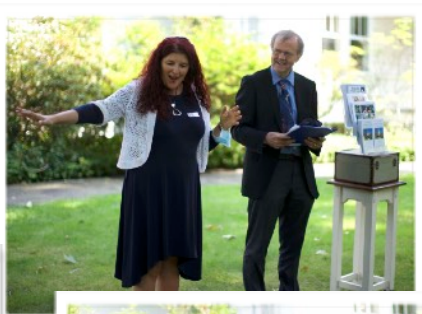
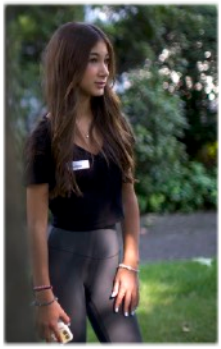
**on**

**Sunday, October 16th at 11:00 a.m.**

Please check our website at <https://www.interfaithli.org/home> for a full calendar of exciting events that have been planned for your family this year!



## Scenes from the Interfaith Community Open House on September 18







# Annual Blessing of the Pets October 9, 2022 - 10 a.m.

Brookville Church, 2 Brookville Rd., Glen Head



Join us on the front lawn (weather permitting). Bring your pets, or a picture, to be blessed.

All well-behaved, vaccinated pets on a leash or in a carrier are welcome!

Please donate to a local animal shelter of your choice.

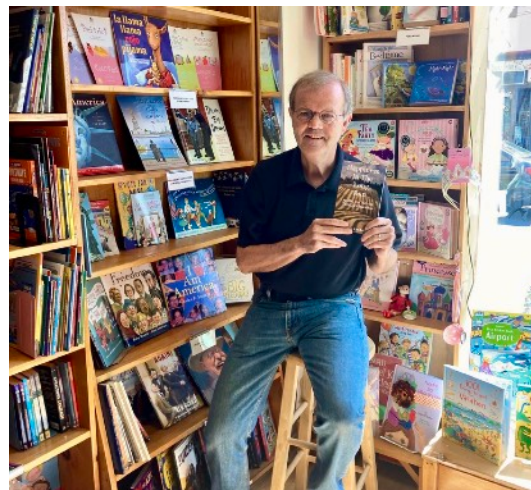


# BRAG BOX

Congratulations to Mikey Johanson who is studying at Tokyo University!

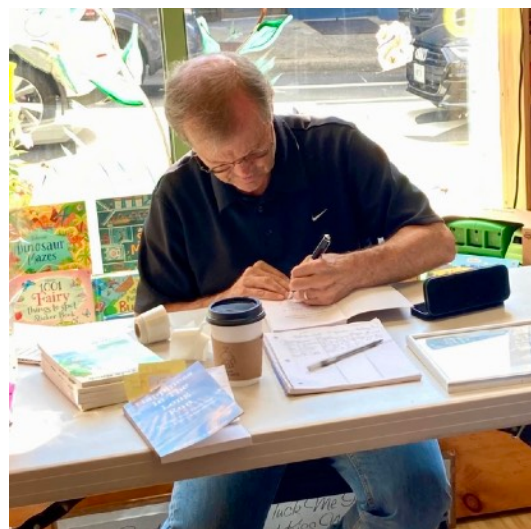


(MIKEY IS 3RD FROM THE LEFT)



Congratulations to Rev. Bill McBride on a successful book signing for his book: Happiness in the Long Run at Dolphin Bookshop in Port Washington.

Thank you to those who came to support Bill on his journey as an author.





There will be a Celebration of Life for

*Helen Thompson*

**Saturday, October 8, 2022 at 10:30 AM**

at Brookville Church

Helen lived to see 103 years of life. Her family invites those who knew Helen to join them in this Memorial Celebration.



Picture taken at Helen's 100th Birthday party

## ALL SAINTS DAY

November 6, 2021

At Brookville Church, All Saints Sunday has come to be the day in which we read the Necrology, a listing of the people in our faith community who have died in the last year, acknowledging the impact their lives have made on those who are still alive and have had the privilege of knowing the deceased. It is a day we remember and light a candle in their honor.

If you would like a candle lit for a loved one who has passed away in this past year, please email [brookvillechurch@gmail.com](mailto:brookvillechurch@gmail.com) to let us know the name of the deceased and how they are related to you.

### Help for Ukraine through the Red Cross

From their website: "As conflict in Ukraine continues to rage, the Red Cross is committed to providing lifesaving aid to those in need — both in the country and in neighboring areas. Of the more than 12 million people who have been displaced by this conflict, an estimated 8 million are still inside the country and in need of urgent life-saving assistance. The Red Cross has reached 1 in 10 people impacted by this crisis and is committed to assisting the most vulnerable." [Read more...](#)

**DONATE at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)**



Hosted by Parkway Community Church

**COME LEARN WITH US:**

- What does this look like on Long Island
- What are red flags you can look for?
- What is our role? What can we do?

**Oct. 13 6:30-8:30pm**

**95 Stewart Ave, Hicksville**

[office@parkwaycommunitychurch.org](mailto:office@parkwaycommunitychurch.org)  
(516) 938-1233



Join us for our second annual  
**Trick-or-Treat the Cabins at Camp Warwick**

**When:**  
Saturday, October 15, 2022 from 12-4pm

**Where:**  
Camp Warwick Cabins and Collegiate Lodge  
62 Warwick Center Rd  
Warwick, NY 10990

**What to expect:**  
Join us for trick-or-treating around our cabins decorated and hosted by various congregations and ministries. We will have games, activities, snacks, and prizes!

Costumes are welcome

Let us know you're coming by scanning this QR code or visiting our website at [campwarwick.org](http://campwarwick.org)

## The Next Chapter



Branch Worsham

This story starts on January 2, 1960, when Nancy and I were married and when her parents bought an old Vermont farm just right for family visits in summer, fall, and winter. The next installment was winter 1961, when we were stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska and we spent most of our leisure time learning to ski -- there was a decent small slope on Post with

lights that we went to in the evening. We began to realize how much fun it was despite the cold. When we left the service and arrived on Long Island going to Vermont quickly became our winter choice for adventure. Visiting the farm and skiing on several slopes was even better than Alaska. I began running in the off season (summer and fall) to get in shape for the slopes. That mix of athletic activity was my own

preparation for teaching our growing family how to ski. Probably the first big family winter holiday was not to Florida but to Canada where we spent one Christmas and New Years skiing, sometimes all together on the easy bunny slopes.

Growing kids, school demands and other interests started pulling us apart and we found there were other activities to entertain us, cutting down on the Vermont trips. Skiing also became expensive needing to get new equipment that was required too often. The farm was still where Grandpa and Grandma were, but we only went there for special holidays. However, there was one great takeaway for me, I kept running. Now the older three of our children still have their families involved in at least one winter snow holiday on the slopes.

Continued on page 13



## The Next Chapter ...continued from page 12

One of the really amazing running things is the phenomenon that, when I heard of it, I was puzzled. At the time I was a dedicated full time runner in my early fifties and there was something almost unique among our sport. It came slowly into my own realm of possibility. What was the experience that was occurring? It acquired a hauntingly evocative name -- the runners high. In the scientific disposition of the seventies and eighties researchers chased in their own race after what a runners high consisted of.

One investigator, Dr. Michael Sachs, wrote "The runners high remains as elusive as ever, but its trail is an exciting one that will be followed by increasing numbers of researchers." Not all people, Sachs explains, are capable of experiencing the high. In two studies only 10 percent of runners noticed what is described as 'a euphoric sensation', usually unexpected and the runner feels a sense of well being not common to running at any time or place.

Whatever science does learn we runners already know that running does some surprising things lifting our bodies and minds to new highs. I personally experienced the high twice and during the first one - my body seeming lighter by half and floating just above the road instead of pounding along on it. The feeling lasted for less than two minutes and the rest of the run was 'different' for quite awhile. I have never forgotten it.

"This is a sport which makes the body's very liver curl with enjoyment". -MARK TWAIN

I could start my runs right outside the front door. I wasn't a great runner, my body was the wrong shape, but I wasn't inept either. I knew I was improving when I became a daily runner. Any number of other activities - bicycling, swimming, and water skiing -- these will, if energetically pursued, achieve the same ends and they were tried and usually lasted a few seasons then were switched to another. As I got more into running I discovered that it was a pleasant way to improve body, health and disposition. The eventual

achievement was when winning races became out of reach, but other goals remained: to impede, if I was able, the body's inevitable slowing; to cover a course faster than other contemporaries could and to extract from my aging sinew, feats that logic would insist were no longer there to be had.

When competitive speed left me I became content with running races against myself. There was a writer and editor and a runner before he became an esteemed historian and college professor. Ed Ayers started running as a high school sophomore and by the time he got out of college he could run a 10K race (6.3 miles) in an enviable 31:13 or 5:02 minutes per mile. Then speculating on what kept him going in the face of declining race times which he knew to be inexorable he said, "I'm not racing against Ed Ayers as a twenty-two-year-old. That Ed Ayers no longer exists." If you love running you're likely to find one reason or another to keep at it. After all, running has not just one satisfaction, but many.

I am sixteen years older than Ayers and have enjoyed many of the good things given to runners, but now they are all behind me. But I still do the daily miles, only walking, not running.. These latter days in my life I can consider some of the "glorious things" God has done for me and running is high on the list. I can sing to the Lord, thanking Him for these things and use this Next Chapter as a way to tell you what God has done for me.

"The test of an enjoyment is the remembrance which it leaves behind." --J.P. RICHTER

BEAT NAVY!

*Branch*

*Worsham*





# Study, Pray and Worship at Brookville Multifaith Campus...

## Muslim Reform Movement Organization

[muslimreform@hotmail.com](mailto:muslimreform@hotmail.com)

In Person Prayers,  
Fridays 1 PM  
*Khutba* at 1:10, English  
*Prayer* at 1:30

Online Quran Study  
Sundays, 2:30 - 4 PM

[CLICK FOR ZOOM LINK](#)

## Brookville Church

[brookvillechurch@gmail.com](mailto:brookvillechurch@gmail.com)

Hybrid Worship Celebrations  
Sundays, 10 AM

Online Bible Study

[CLICK FOR ZOOM LINK](#)



## New Synagogue of L.I.

[newsynagogue.li@gmail.com](mailto:newsynagogue.li@gmail.com)

Shabbat Services  
One Friday a month, 7:00 PM

[CLICK FOR ZOOM LINK](#)

## Interfaith Community of L.I.

[allison@interfaithli.org](mailto:allison@interfaithli.org)

In person classes for children

[CLICK FOR INFO](#)